



SWITCH Africa Green

Up-scaling sustainable commercial production of medicinal plants by community-based conservation groups at Kakamega forest in Kenya



SWITCH Africa Green

Up-scaling sustainable commercial production of medicinal plants by community-based conservation groups at Kakamega forest in Kenya

This action is implemented by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) and the Muliru Farmers Conservation Group (MFCG) as partner. The action is undertaken adjacent to the biodiversity-rich Kakamega forest in Western Kenya. The forest is highly threatened by unsustainable consumption of natural resources collected by the local community due to economic and population pressure. This includes traditional medicinal products that are widely used by the community for primary health care and also sold in the marketplaces.



Extraction of medicinal plants and fuel wood from Kakamega forest by the local community

icipe undertakes scientific research and development and dissemination of environmentally safe, “green” technologies, products and strategies for management and control of pests and diseases for rural communities in Africa. The major goal is to minimize the rampant use of harmful and hazardous synthetic chemicals, to improve on community livelihoods and to contribute to conservation of the environment.

A number of “green” products have been developed by *icipe* and partners that include those from indigenous traditional medicinal plants.



Naturub balm for relief from congestion, muscular aches, pains and insect bites



Naturub ointment for relief from muscular aches and pains



Mozigone mosquito repellent for personal protection



Mondia Tonic nutraceutical, a revitalizer and rejuvenator

icipe and partners have facilitated the local community adjacent to Kakamega forest to domesticate some medicinal plants from the wild and to undertake commercial cultivation of the plants, including *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* and *Mondia whytei*.



Community-based cultivation of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum*



Community-based harvesting of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum*



Community-based harvesting of *Mondia whytei*

icipe and partners have also facilitated the establishment of local community-based Medium Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) adjacent to Kakamega forest to undertake processing of the plant materials and production, sales and marketing of derived products through value chain systems.



Processing of medicinal plant material by the community-based MSMEs adjacent to Kakamega forest

This SWITCH Africa Green Action is promoting sustainable consumption and production (SCP) practices among 10 MSMEs comprising of over 400 rural community households living adjacent to Kakamega forest. It is improving the practices of the MSMEs in the following:

- Domestication, on-farm cultivation and harvesting of medicinal plants;
- Processing of the medicinal plant material by the MSMEs;
- Production, sales and marketing of derived products by the MSMEs;
- Development and provision of Toolkits on SCPs for the MSMEs;
- Improvement in quality, efficiency & sustainability;
- Product improvement and diversification;
- Conservation of the environment.



Improvement in operation, health and Safety procedures, code of conduct and adherence



Recycling of residue from processed medicinal plant material which is now used as organic manure



Use of a solar water heating system for preheating the water during medicinal plant processing has resulted in approximately 50% reduction in the use of cooking gas (LPG) and reduced operational costs



Sales and marketing of 'green' products from the community



Domestication has been initiated for additional traditional medicinal plants including *Ocimum suave* and *Lippia ukambensis*



UZIMAX



Apicure

Product diversification has been undertaken using medicinal plant by-products for spin-off products including *UZIMAX* for control of mosquito larvae in stagnant water habitats, and *Apicure* for control of the emerging pests of bees in beehives.

Expected outcomes

The following are the expected outcomes of the action:

- Improved efficiency in operations and sustainability of the MSMEs;
- Improved quality and yield of products;
- Increased income for the local community;
- Reduced reliance on forest resources by the community;
- Enhanced conservation of the environment.



African Insect Science for Food and Health

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)

P.O. Box 30772-00100 Nairobi, Kenya

icipe@icipe.org – www.icipe.org



MFCG - Muliru Farmers Conservation Group

P.O. Box 58-50107-Shinyalu-Kakamega

mulirufcg@gmail.com – www.mulirufcg.org

